

***Amendments to the Claims***

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A method of accessing a shareable computer file, comprising:

receiving a request to access the shareable computer file;  
retrieving a file ID based on a stub file corresponding to the shareable computer file,  
wherein the file ID references the stub file, and wherein the stub file is a private file;  
copying the shareable computer file to the stub file if a user attempts to modify the shareable computer file, wherein any modifications are made to the copy;  
accessing, based on the file ID, the modified copy if modifications have been made; and  
accessing, based on the file ID, the shareable computer file if modifications have not been made.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising creating a database that includes information for deriving corresponding file names for a plurality of shareable computer files.

3. (original) The method of claim 2, further comprising retrieving a file name from the database, wherein the file name corresponds to the file ID.

4. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the file name is derived based on the file ID.

5. (original) The method of claim 2, further comprising creating a file tree for the shareable computer files.

6. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the database is provided by the operating system for use by a Virtual Private Server.

7. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the database is generated in operating system space.

8. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the operating system provides access to the database.

9. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising creating the stub file in a private area of a Virtual Private Server prior to the step of retrieving the file ID.

10. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the modified copy of the shareable computer file includes only a portion of the shareable computer file that the user has attempted to modify.

11. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of generating private areas for a plurality of Virtual Private Servers, wherein stub files of each Virtual Private Server corresponding to the shareable computer file are stored in a private area of a corresponding Virtual Private Server.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, further comprising installing restrictions on use of resources by each Virtual Private Server.

13. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein the resources include disk quota and file number quota.

14. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein data of the shareable computer file, if modifications have not been made, is shared on a disk between different instances of Virtual Private Servers.

15. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein data of the shareable computer file, if modifications have not been made, is shared in computer memory between different instances of Virtual Private Servers.

16. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the stub file includes a modified copy of the shareable computer file if the shareable computer file was attempted to be modified, and wherein the stub file refers to the shareable computer file if the user has not attempted to modify the shareable computer file.

17. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein, if the user has not attempted to modify the shareable computer file, a read-only operation retrieves any of file contents, file pointer position and file size from the shareable computer file.

18. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein, if the user has not attempted to modify the shareable computer file, the stub file is a zero size file.

19. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising retrieving file attributes relating to the shareable computer file from the stub file.

20. (currently amended) A system for accessing a shareable computer file, comprising:

means for receiving a request to access the shareable computer file;

means for retrieving a file ID based on a stub file corresponding to the shareable computer file, wherein the file ID references the stub file, and wherein the stub file is a private file;

means for copying the shareable computer file to the stub file if a user attempts to modify the shareable computer file, wherein any modifications are made to the copy;

means for accessing, based on the file ID, the modified copy if modifications have been made; and

means for accessing, based on the file ID, the shareable computer file if modifications have not been made.

21. (currently amended) A computer program product for accessing a shareable computer file, the computer program product comprising a computer useable medium having computer program logic recorded thereon for controlling at least one processor, the computer program logic comprising:

computer program code means for receiving a request to access the shareable computer file;

computer program code means for retrieving a file ID based on a stub file corresponding to the shareable computer file, wherein the file ID references the stub file, and wherein the stub file is a private file;

computer program code means for copying the shareable computer file to the stub file if a user attempts to modify the shareable computer file, wherein any modifications are made to the copy;

computer program code means for accessing, based on the file ID, the modified copy if modifications have been made; and

computer program code means for accessing, based on the file ID, the shareable computer file if modifications have not been made.

22. (currently amended) A system for concurrent accessing of files by multiple users, comprising:

a plurality of shareable computer files maintained by the operating system;

a database including records with file IDs and information for deriving file names of the shareable computer files; and

a plurality of stub files for use by a Virtual Private Server,  
wherein the file IDs are derivable from the stub files and correspond to those shareable  
computer files that a user has not attempted to modify,

wherein the file IDs reference the stub files,

wherein the stub files are private files, and

wherein the stub files include modified contents of the shareable computer files for those  
shareable computer files that the user has attempted to modify.

23. (original) The system of claim 22, wherein the stub files include file attributes of  
corresponding shareable computer files.

24. (original) The system of claim 22, wherein, if the user has not modified a  
particular shareable computer file, a read-only operation to retrieve any of file position, file size  
and file contents retrieves them from the particular shareable computer file.

25. (original) The system of claim 22, wherein the database exists in operating  
system space.

26. (original) The system of claim 22, wherein the operating system provides access  
to the database.

27. (original) The system of claim 22, wherein the file name is stored in the database  
and corresponds to the file ID.

28. (original) The system of claim 22, wherein the database includes information for  
deriving the file name based on the file ID.

29. (original) The system of claim 22, further comprising a file tree for the shareable  
computer files.

30. (original) The system of claim 22, wherein the stub files are stored in a private area of the Virtual Private Server.

31. (original) The system of claim 22, wherein the database is provided by the operating system for use by the Virtual Private Server.

32. (original) The system of claim 22, wherein the modified copy of the shareable computer file includes only a portion of the shareable computer file that the user has attempted to modify.

33. (original) The system of claim 22, further comprising private areas for a plurality of Virtual Private Servers, wherein stub files of each Virtual Private Server corresponding to the shareable computer file are stored in a private area of a corresponding Virtual Private Server.

34. (original) The system of claim 33, wherein each Virtual Private Server includes restrictions on its use of system resources.

35. (original) The system of claim 34, wherein the system resources include disk quota and file number quota.

36. (original) The system of claim 34, wherein the restrictions include soft limits and hard limits on the use of system resources.

37. (original) The system of claim 36, wherein the soft limits become hard limits after a predetermined period of restriction violation.

38. (original) The system of claim 22, wherein the stub file includes a modified copy of the shareable computer file if the shareable computer file was attempted to be modified, and

wherein the stub file refers to the shareable computer file if the user has not attempted to modify the shareable computer file.

39. (original) The system of claim 22, wherein, if the user has not attempted to modify the shareable computer file, a read-only operation retrieves any of file contents, file position and file size from the shareable computer file.

40. (original) The system of claim 22, wherein the stub files include file attributes relating to corresponding shareable computer files.